

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 PM-07 H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SY-10 NEA-10

NIC-01 AID-20 RSR-01 /150 W
----- 076818

P R 281926Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5323

INFO DOD/DIA

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: CI PINT PINS ELAB MILI

SUBJ: MERCHANTS STRIKE AGAIN

REF: SANTIAGO 3815

1. SUMMARY. MERCHANTS DECLARED NATIONWIDE STRIKE BEGIN-
NING THIS MORNING, TO LAST EITHER 24 OR 48 HOURS. BOMBS EXPLODED
AT RESIDENCES OF THREE CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICERS. NO CABINET YET.
CUT RALLY TODAY. END SUMMARY

2. MERCHANTS GUILDS ANNOUNCED NATIONWIDE STRIKE BEGINNING TODAY
OVER ALLEGED LACK OF GOVT RESPONSE TO THEIR VARIOUS DEMANDS AND
IN SOLIDARITY WITH TRANSPORTATION GUILDS. JORGE MARTINEZ'
NATIONAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL STRIKE FOR 48 HOURS, CUMSILLE'S
RETAIL SHOPKEEPERS 24 HOURS, BOTH ARE "EXTENDABLE." MEANWHILE,
TALKS CONTINUE BUT NO PROGRESS REPORTED TOWARD SETTLEMENT OF FEW
REMAINING ISSUES IN NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRIKE. DOCTORS,
DENTISTS AND OTHER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS REMAIN ON STRIKE, AND
AGRICULTURAL WORKERS OUT TODAY FOR 24 HOURS.

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3. BOMBS EXPLODED AT HOMES OF TWO CUBAN EMBASSY OFFICIALS

AND IN CAR OF THIRD DURING EARLY MORNING HOURS AUG 27. ALL PURPORTEDLY WORK IN COMMERCIAL ATTACHE OFFICE. DYNAMITE EXPLOSION SAME TIME NEAR ELECTRIC POWER SUBSTATION I SAN BORJA APARTMENT COMPLEX, ON FRINGE OF DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO, DESTROYED THREE CARS. OTHER SCATTERED TERRORIST INCIDENTS REPORTED IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS.

4. STILL NO FIRM INDICATION WHEN NEW CABINET WILL BE INSTALLED. IN COMMENTS TO REPORTERS, MINFIN ADM. MONTERO CONFIRMED HE HAD RESIGNED HIS CABINET POST AND WILL HENCEFORTH DEVOTE FULL TIME TO RUNNING THE NAVY. OPPOSITION PRESS INTERPRETED REMARKS AS INDICATION MILITARY CINC'S WILL NOT BE IN NEW CABINET, ALTHOUGH VENTURING THAT ARMED FORCES COULD STILL BE REPRESENTED AT MORE JUNIOR LEVEL. ARMY BOARD OF GENERALS BEGAN MEETING THIS MORNING REPORTEDLY TO DISCUSS SUCH TOPICS AS ROLE OF ARMY, ITS INTERNAL COMMAND STRUCTURE, PENDING RETIREMENTS OF CERTAIN SENIOR OFFICERS, AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO ALLENDE GOVT. OTHER SERVICES, POLITICAL PARTIES OF ALL STRIPES, AND GUILDS ARE INTERESTED ON-LOOKERS.

5. UP MEDIA CONTINUE TO STRESS CUT RALLY SCHEDULED FOR LATE AFTERNOON TODAY. SLOGAN IS "NO TO A COUP AND IN DEFENSE OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL GOVT," AND SPECIAL HONOR WILL BE PAID TO GEN. (RET.) CARLOS PRATS; CUT SEC GEN ROLANDO CALDERON (PS) IS ONLY ANNOUNCED SPEAKER.

6. PRO-GOVT MEDIA ARE HEAVILY PUBLICIZING ALLEGED "CONFESSIONS" OF PATRIA Y LIBERTAD LEADER ROBERTO THIEME, ARRESTED AUG 25 (REFTEL). ACCORDING TO THESE REPORTS, THIEME HAS ADMITTED RESPONSIBILITY FOR MOST MAJOR CRIMES COMMITTED IN CHILE IN LAST SEVERAL MONTHS INCLUDING ARAYA DEATH AND CURICO PIPELINE EXPLOSION. SAID CLARIN: "HE'S SINGING LIKE A CANARY." JUDGE PAILLAS IS APPARENTLY NO LONGER INVOLVED IN THIEME CASE (REFTEL).

7. SEN. CARLOS ALTAMIRANO AND MAPU DEP. OSCAR GARRETON ISSUED SEPARATE STATEMENTS, ANGRILY DENYING ANY INVOLVEMENT IN VARIOUS SUBVERSION PLOTS DENOUNCED BY NAVY. SOME OPPOSITION REPORTS CLAIM THEY, ALONG WITH MIR CHIEF MIGUEL ENRIQUEZ, WERE "INTELLECTUAL AUTHORS" OF SUBVERSION IN NAVY AND DEMANDED THEY BE STRIPPED OF CONGRESSIONAL IM-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MUNICIPALITY SO THEY COULD BE PROSECUTED.
DAVIS

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